



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2005-12-0601

November 20, 2006

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WELFARE FRAUD

Inspector General David O. Thomas, after an investigation by FSSA Investigator Sharon Kahoe, reports as follows:

This case involves an individual who falsified income information to the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to qualify for public assistance.

The Compliance Division of the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) conducted this investigation, led by investigator Sharon Kahoe. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) participated in an assistance role.

The investigation showed that welfare recipient, Kelly Brown of Gary, Lake County, Indiana, submitted false pay stubs to FSSA in order to receive food stamps and child care benefits. The amount of income reported on the pay stubs submitted by Brown did not match income reported to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Investigator Sharon Kahoe, also interviewed Brown's former employer and observed Brown's original, unaltered pay stubs. These

income records revealed significantly more pay than Brown reported to FSSA, verifying that Brown submitted false income information to FSSA to make her income appear less in order to qualify for public assistance.

In summary, Sharon Kahoe's investigation revealed that Brown obtained a total of \$25,412.00 in state services and benefits to which Brown would not have been entitled had she reported and verified her true income.

This case was referred to the Lake County Prosecutor's Office in February of 2006 resulting in criminal charges of welfare fraud in Lake County.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2006.



David O. Thomas, Inspector General